

*Library*

HEALTH  
G-6 JUL 54  
CR

**BARROW-UPON-SOAR  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
LIBRARY

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1953**

**J. W. HALL, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**



**BARROW-UPON-SOAR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

**ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE  
BARROW-UPON-SOAR RURAL DISTRICT**

Year ended 31st December, 1953

---

To the Chairman and Members of the Barrow-upon-Soar  
Rural District Council.

**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

J. W. HALL, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

W. Donovan, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate for Inspection of Meat  
and Other Foods

**DISTRICT SANITARY INSPECTORS**

A. J. Blaylock, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

L. R. Knowles, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

**CLERICAL**

Miss D. G. Beaumont

**HOUSING WELFARE OFFICER**

Mrs. E. L. Hunt

# REPORT

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953, of the general conditions, health and vital statistics of the Barrow-upon-Soar Rural District.

The Report is in conformity with suggestions made by the Ministry of Health and also incorporates a section compiled by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

It is not so very many years ago that "Public Health" was regarded as being synonymous with the control of the infectious diseases. To-day the majority of infectious diseases have greatly lost their terror and it may be said that we are becoming progressively free from the germs of dirt. Measles, however, in conformity with its pattern of a two-year periodicity, was prevalent in the early months of the year.

Whilst many of the infectious diseases are losing their importance, the incidence of infective hepatitis and poliomyelitis is on the increase. Research into the epidemiology of poliomyelitis is showing very promising results and much can be expected of the immunological methods now being used and assessed.

Diphtheria and also, to a lesser degree, whooping cough, by the greatly successful method of immunisation, are well controlled. But immunisation against diphtheria — and this applies equally to vaccination against smallpox — is still of vital importance. It is culpable complacency to ignore the facilities for immunisation with the excuse that the prevalence of diphtheria is so low. Immunisation and vaccination in infancy are as important as sending children to school. Think upon it — we do not refuse sending our children to school for the reason that we, ourselves, are not illiterate.

Discussion about immunisation and the infectious diseases would not be complete without reference to Rubella — "german measles". Should a mother in the first trimester of pregnancy be infected with rubella for the first time, there is a great possibility that the infant will be born with some physical defect. The benefits of female children having rubella before child-bearing age are very clear. Rubella is of little consequence — some malaise, a fleeting headache, a slight rise in temperature and a rash of no moment are the characteristic signs and symptoms. Here is a great opportunity to show preventive medicine at its best — not in the aged but in the unborn. To infect schoolgirls with rubella has some support — it could so easily, for example, be introduced in that "free activity" period or whatever is termed that alarming period so common in infant schools when children knock nails into wood, throw sand, splash water, and babble and scribble whilst teacher nods approval. Digression here to discuss the relation of the mental health of children and "free activity" must be resisted, but it may be permissible to give one opinion about "free activity" — "Perhaps, like communism, it is too simple a theory and does not work in practice."

To return, however, to the suggestion of the introduction of rubella to female children; this is not to be accepted without criticism. There is the problem of one virus being the vector of another more potent virus. Opinions about this are at variance and it is only by discussing these and other problems at frequent meetings of Medical Officers of Health that decisions can be made. The responsibility is too great for any one official to be expected to take. Happily most Local Authorities make attendance at these meetings possible.

Although the 66 notifications of new cases of tuberculosis this year is exactly the same number as notified last year, there is little doubt that tuberculosis is a disease at last responding well to preventive measures and to medical treatment. It is to be realised, however, that there are consequences arising from those patients in whom treatment has only been partially successful. The increased longevity of these patients entails a prolonged state of infectivity, and thus it is imperative to intensify the preventive measures to ensure the control of the disease.

In these preventive measures the basic principles of good housing and good nutrition still apply. Re-housing is a great responsibility and is not to be undertaken in an illogical manner as far as tuberculosis applicants are concerned. It is very pleasing to report that this Council has given favourable consideration to the cases recommended for re-housing for reasons of tuberculosis.

At South Croxton, at long last, there is now a piped water supply. This is momentous but not beyond belief; indeed, harebells have been seen to break through concrete! Water mains are not yet laid, however, at Ulverscroft and Barkby Thorpe.

For the most part, the brooks in the area flow "in nature's course untrimmed". In several cases the brooks are choked with weeds and vegetation, tinker's junk, and gravel sweepings from the roads, so that the flow is impeded. In places such as Rearsby and Sileby, the condition is serious as in the event of a rainstorm there is a great risk of flooding. Adjacent houses are very liable to flooding and on occasions this has, in fact, occurred. It is agreed that these brooks require cleaning but the Authorities concerned are not in agreement as to the sharing of financial responsibility for cleaning the brooks.

Progress is being made in laying the rising main from the Birstall sewage works to Queniborough. Work commenced in November and when the scheme is completed it will be an improvement of major importance.

The principle has been adopted by six or seven Parish Councils — with financial assistance from this Council — to build Public Conveniences. Presumably the usual charge for admission will be made, but, there is much sense in the suggestion that the coin be refunded if the wash basin is used before leaving.



The Infant Mortality rates are always encouraging features of an Annual Report. Great progress is being made each decade and almost every year there is a slight fall. There comes a time, however, when the conditions responsible for "avoidable" deaths are controlled. To make further progress in lowering the infant mortality rate the centre of concentration might profitably move from the infant to the mother. It has been said, "What the mother is, the children are:" and if the mother is herself orderly and tidy in her household management, it is to be expected she will be equally capable in tending to her infant. It is only by a more comprehensive study of the problem and the factors involved, that a progressive fall in the Infant Mortality rates will be maintained.

Preventive medicine has not time "to chew the futile straw of indolence". Its field can extend as far as the horizons of imagination and foresight. Although the one-time basis of Public Health, the control of the infectious diseases, is now so relatively small, other wide fields of thought engage our study. One such field concerns Mental Health. The germs of dirt are under control but we are still a prey to our worries and anxieties. Health has been defined as "the unconscious working of all functions of the body and brain in harmony with one another and with the environment".

Many conditions arise from worry and from living in disharmony with the environment. As well as the major neurosis, peptic ulcers, for example, frequently arise from worrying unduly.

Another comparatively new field for profitable study concerns endocrinology. The complex emotions and perplexities of adolescence and the frustrations and depressions of the climacteric are caused by an imbalance of endocrines. Much of the make-up of temperament depends upon the endocrine system and the extremes of moods and emotions are, in some ways, deviations from endocrine normality. Not only in relation to the emotions is endocrinology basically important. Metabolism and growth is largely controlled by the endocrine system and this system is involved in perhaps every branch of medicine. A study of this subject to gain a comprehensive understanding of the endocrine system — which is virtually life itself — will be well repaid by the benefits following its application.

To example one condition worthy of particular study consider the case of the fat child at school. Practically every school has its fat child. This child is commonly the butt for ridicule although the obesity frequently masks a superior intelligence. In the past the condition of the fat child has been accepted rather than investigated and no attempt has been made to determine whether the obesity was a hereditary, a hypothalamic, a psychological or an endocrinological type of obesity. Much can be done for these patients if a clear understanding of their conditions is known.

If it is necessary to prescribe a diet there is no cause for the patient to be in dismay that he is "Never again to know the riot of the feast". By carefully selecting a dietary that appeals to the patient's tastes the pleasures of the table need not be denied.

The rheumatic and allied diseases are responsible for a great deal of ill-health and incapacity. Cortisone can do much to alleviate — though not to cure — these conditions, but perhaps a cure is to be found in the steroid hormones.

The greatest progress is made when administrative progress runs parallel with scientific advancement. In Public Health this rarely, if ever, happens. This is very apparent in the case of the aged and chronic sick. Many elderly and infirm persons are living alone in appalling conditions. There is a distinction between squalor and penury, but in these cases it is very difficult to make the distinction as both conditions are so frequently found together. In spite of all the advances in gerontology, life cannot be extended indefinitely and there is a span of life “as a shock of corn cometh in his season.”

The care of the aged involves an understanding of the physiological and psychological changes in the ageing process. It also requires a knowledge of the changing metabolism and the varying bodily needs of calories and mineral salts. The mental processes of the aged are too often compared against the background of the experiences of our own ages and we fail to appreciate the thoughts of old people. There is a tendency to overstress the problem of loneliness although, as Churchill might say, “this is a heavy matter”. The thoughts of old people are more prolonged and less fleeting than those of younger minds and mental activity becomes a tiring process. To conserve physical strength it is most important to have a restfulness of mind. Some of us enjoy watching “What’s My Line” on television with keen and eager concentration but there are older people who would sooner just gaze into the fire.

The pattern of the mental changes is by no means constant. Many retain amazing mental faculties to a great age, others quietly change into placitude whilst, alas, others become cantankerous, querulous, independent, impossible personalities.

The nursing of the elderly sick is difficult. Prolonged rest in bed is constantly a prelude to many sequelae in old people such as incontinence, retention cystitis and pulmonary complications. Preventive measures must be directed against allowing old people to remain in bed even for short periods during any illness or disability.

By all these advances in treatment and preventive measures people are living to a greater age. But, especially when endocrinological treatment has given a new lease of life, this is not without certain difficulties. Any undue activity may so easily result in cerebral accidents and coronary infarctions.

On the administrative side the problem is becoming increasingly difficult. Besides there being a great lack of accommodation for the care of old people, it is difficult to determine which patients require hospital

treatment, care and attention in Homes or admission to Mental Institutions. It is sad to witness a life of accomplishment in decay, and when a patient's mental faculties fail, it is unpleasant to consider mental certification. Senile dementia is hardly a true insanity and indeed, much improvement often follows a daily dose of vitamin B. To certify the condition is distressing also to the relatives and it may be prejudicial to their interests to have to disclose it, as is necessary in connexion with various transactions. In consideration of all these difficulties it is pleasing to record that there has not been cause to enforce Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, in which powers are given for compulsory Institutional care for old people.

Preventive medicine is not a special subject but rather an attitude towards medicine. The true concept extends widely into all branches of medicine and if the question should arise "Whither Public Health?" the answer "lies around".

I am very grateful to the Council for the encouraging interest shown in the work of the Public Health Department.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. Donovan, and to all the members of the Department for their helpful co-operation throughout the year. I am also very grateful to Dr. R. Cautley Holderness, Medical Officer of Health, Loughborough, who again so kindly undertook the essential medical duties of the Department whilst I was under the care of Surgeons.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—54,804 acres.

Resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,160
Number of houses inhabited at the end of 1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,568
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£252,440
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£930 12 5

## VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Census 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,862
Population—National Registration 1939	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,599
Population—Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	47,376
Population (Estimated from Birth and Death Rates)	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,160

## BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS				Male	Female	Total	1952
Legitimate	...	...	...	307	357	664	633
Illegitimate	...	...	...	11	9	20	23
				<hr/> 318	<hr/> 366	<hr/> 684	<hr/> 656

						1953	1952
Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.3	13.4
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	15.5	15.3



STILL BIRTHS						Male	Female	Total	1952
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	13	13
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—
						10	3	13	13
						—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 population						...	...	1953	1952
England and Wales						...	...	0.26	0.27
						...	...	0.35	0.35

## DEATHS

All causes and ages						Male	Female	Total	1952
						213	237	450	460
Rate per 1,000 population						...	...	1953	1952
England and Wales						...	...	9.2	9.4
						...	...	11.4	11.3

## INFANT MORTALITY

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Legitimate						Male	Female	Total	1952
						6	9	15	12
Illegitimate						—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—
						6	9	15	12
						—	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age								1953	1952
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births						...	...	22.6	19.0
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births						...	...	—	—
Total deaths per 1,000 live births						...	...	21.9	19.3
Total deaths per live births in England						...	...	26.8	27.6

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE

Legitimate						Male	Female	Total	1952
						2	6	8	9
Illegitimate						—	—	—	—
						—	—	—	—
						2	6	8	9
						—	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age								1953	1952
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births						...	...	12.03	14.22
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births						...	...	—	—
Total deaths per 1,000 live births						...	...	11.69	14.72

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	Male	Female	Total	1952
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	3	6	9	9
2. Other forms of tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	2
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	1	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	—	—	—
7. Poliomyelitis... ..	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	1	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach ... ..	6	6	12	12
11. Malignant neoplasm lung ... ..	8	5	13	14
12. Malignant neoplasm breast ... ..	—	10	10	10
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus ... ..	—	6	6	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	25	15	40	54
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia ... ..	1	1	2	—
16. Diabetes ... ..	—	4	4	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	33	45	78	65
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	32	28	60	49
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	8	9	17	18
20. Other heart diseases... ..	36	48	84	74
21. Other circulatory diseases ... ..	10	4	14	23
22. Influenza ... ..	3	4	7	7
23. Pneumonia ... ..	6	3	9	6
24. Bronchitis ... ..	10	3	13	20
25. Other respiratory diseases ... ..	1	1	2	6
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	7	—	7	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ... ..	—	1	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	2	2	—
29. Hyperplasia or prostate ... ..	1	—	1	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	1	1	—
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	2	5	7	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	14	20	34	46
33. Motor Vehicle accidents ... ..	2	5	7	4
34. All other accidents ... ..	3	4	7	10
35. Suicide ... ..	—	—	—	2
36. Homicide and operation of war ... ..	1	—	1	—

## PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### GENERAL

The total number of each disease notified was as follows:—

Cerebro-spinal meningitis ... ..	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—
Dysentery ... ..	1
Erysipelas ... ..	1
Food Poisoning ... ..	4
Measles ... ..	912
Pneumonia ... ..	37
Poliomyelitis (Acute) (Infantile Paralysis) ... ..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	5
Scarlet Fever ... ..	62
Tuberculosis ... ..	66
Typhoid Fever ... ..	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	230

The following table classifies these notifications (excluding tuberculosis) according to age groups:—

### TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED

		Age Periods									Age un-	Total	Deaths
Disease		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	known		
Scarlet Fever ...	...	—	2	8	47	3	—	2	—	—	—	62	—
Whooping Cough	...	16	49	69	93	3	—	—	—	—	—	230	—
Measles ...	...	11	172	223	471	17	9	6	—	—	3	912	—
Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	...	—	—	5	4	—	9	—	13	5	1	37	9
Dysentery ...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	—

### IMMUNISATION

The following table gives the number of children who were immunised during the period 1st January—31st December, 1953.

Age at 31.12.53 i.e. born in year	Under 1	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 1949	6 1948	7 1947	8 1946	9 1945	10 1944	11 1943	12 1942	13 1941	14 1940	1939
Primary Immunisation	36	256	34	9	7	7	4	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Booster Dose	—	—	—	—	27	327	64	10	—	2	4	2	—	—	—	—

### TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1953 the following cases and deaths from Tuberculosis were notified:—

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	...	...	—	—	5	1	—	—	—
5-	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
10-	...	...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
15-	...	...	5	9	2	2	1	1	—
25-	...	...	7	5	4	1	—	1	—
35-	...	...	4	5	1	—	2	4	—
45-	...	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
55-	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
65-	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
		23	23	12	8	4	6	—	—

### SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLY

The improvement since last year is that South Croxton has a piped water supply but Ulverscroft and Barkby Thorpe still await tap water.

There are 14,217 houses in the district with a main water supply within the curtilage of the houses and 441 houses are supplied from wells and springs.

#### WATER SAMPLES

	Number of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Piped water ...	2	2	—
Well and spring water ...	5	1	4

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Conditions continue to show improvement though many Schools have very poor sanitation. Rearsby School, which has about eighty scholars, is without water carriage sanitation. In this instance the school has some management by the Church and it would appear that it has been forgotten what cleanliness comes next to.

## PAIL CLOSETS

There are 1,379 pail closets in the district which is 84 fewer than last year.

The detailed information for each parish is as follows:—

Parish	No. of Houses with a main water supply	No. of Houses without a main water supply	No. of pails in each Parish
ANSTEY ... ..	1,148	10	100
BARKBY ... ..	102	18	46
BARKBY THORPE ... ..	—	17	10
BARROW-UPON-SOAR ... ..	857	13	73
BEEBY ... ..	25	2	13
BIRSTALL ... ..	2,170	—	—
BURTON-ON-THE-WOLDS ... ..	75	12	20
COSSINGTON... ..	112	8	41
COTES ... ..	8	4	7
CROXTON, SOUTH ... ..	26	23	39
HOTON ... ..	60	11	34
MOUNTSORREL ... ..	1,159	10	109
NEWTOWN LINFORD ... ..	302	16	3
PRESTWOLD ... ..	14	4	11
QUENIBOROUGH ... ..	348	9	85
QUORNDON ... ..	989	15	34
RATCLIFFE-ON-THE-WREAKE ... ..	39	12	19
REARSBY ... ..	188	17	61
ROTHLEY ... ..	883	10	70
SEAGRAVE ... ..	85	21	85
SILEBY ... ..	1,341	11	102
SWITHLAND ... ..	41	10	21
SYSTON ... ..	1,654	9	86
THRUSSINGTON ... ..	118	31	74
THURCASTON ... ..	370	12	23
THURMASTON ... ..	1,276	16	20
ULVERSCROFT ... ..	—	47	14
WALTON-ON-THE-WOLDS ... ..	66	16	38
WANLIP ... ..	27	3	14
WOODHOUSE ... ..	492	32	25
WYMESWOLD ... ..	242	22	102
	14,217	441	1,379

## HOUSING

The following table gives the figures for houses completed and in the course of erection for the year:—

	Completed	Uncompleted
Prefabricated ... ..	—	78
Permanent ... ..	142	132
Private Enterprise ... ..	137	183
	279	393

There were 1,123 applications for Council houses at the end of the year and, of these, 351 were made during 1953.

## LABORATORY, HOSPITAL, AMBULANCE AND NURSING FACILITIES

Close co-operation has been maintained in these matters with the County Medical Services with complete success.

When the voluntary services of the N.S.P.C.C. have been requested there was always a very willing and valuable response in several cases where the safety and welfare of children were in hazard.

## LABORATORY SPECIMENS

Nature of Specimen	Number Examined
Throat and Nose Swabs ... ..	9
Fæces and Urine ... ..	56
Blood ... ..	9
Sputa ... ..	281
V. and C. Swabs ... ..	2
Milk ... ..	290
Water ... ..	7
Ice-cream ... ..	67
Whooping Cough Swabs ... ..	8
Miscellaneous ... ..	146
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>875</b>

## REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following is a summary of the nature and number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

INSPECTIONS MADE	Number of Inspections
Animal Keeping ... ..	41
Bakehouses... ..	11
Dairies ... ..	124
Drainage Works ... ..	1,595
Dwelling-houses (all purposes) ... ..	1,512
Food Premises ... ..	541
Knackers Yards ... ..	44
Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ..	56
Rodent Control ... ..	464
Schools ... ..	30
Shops ... ..	321
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection ... ..	26
Smoke Observations ... ..	39
Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc. ... ..	1,260
Verminous and Dirty Premises ... ..	19
Water Supplies ... ..	518
Workshops, Outworkers, etc. ... ..	162
Other Inspections ... ..	390
	<b>7,153</b>

## NOTICES

### PRELIMINARY

	Housing	Public Heath Nuisances, etc.
Outstanding on 1st January ... ..	45	11
Issued during the year ... ..	218	74
Complied with during the year ... ..	171	70
Statutory Action necessary ... ..	45	3
Outstanding 31st December ... ..	33	12



## STATUTORY

Outstanding on 1st January	...	...	...	...	...	68	—
Issued during the year	...	...	...	...	...	45	3
Complied with during the year	...	...	...	...	...	64	3
Outstanding 31st December	...	...	...	...	...	49	—

No notices were enforced by summary action.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES

The inspection of dwelling-houses forms a large part of the duties of the Sanitary Inspectors.

While the high cost of repairs is still a deterrent to the owners of cottage properties, nevertheless a considerable amount of repair work and improvements were being carried out by the owners on a voluntary basis or as the result of action by the Council.

In cases where the owners failed to do repairs, Statutory Notices have generally been served under the Public Health Act.

In the case of four houses, Notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the work was done by the Council in default of the owners. The owner of three houses died soon after the completion of the works which had cost £461 and the Council accepted the houses in discharge of the debt.

While only seven Demolition Orders were made in respect of unfit houses, a survey had been started to prepare a report on Slum Clearance.

Other works of the improvement carried out were the conversion of 64 pail closets and 2 privies to water closets, and the provision of additional closets to 12 houses. In addition 68 houses had a piped water supply in lieu of a pump supply and 16 houses had water laid into the houses instead of a tap in the yard.

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	915
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,512
(2) Number of houses inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
(3) Number of houses found to be totally unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
(4) Number of houses requiring repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	218
(5) Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
(6) Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices under the Housing Act:							
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(7) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served under Public Health Acts requiring repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
(8) Number of houses in which defects were remedied under Public Health Acts:							
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
(b) by Local Authorities in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of houses Demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Closing Orders on parts of houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Closing Orders made under Local Government (Mis. Provs.) Act, 1933	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## OVERCROWDING

There were no new cases of Statutory Overcrowding.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

The discovery of bed bugs and fleas in houses is now a rare occurrence although in the case of "mild" infestations of fleas, the infestations may not be reported or discovered.

One house only was infested with bed bugs.

## CARAVAN SITES

There were 39 sites licensed for caravans and the caravans numbered 139, the majority of which were permanently occupied.

The conditions on licensed sites have been satisfactory. There are still cases where owners of land allow caravans to be stationed for long periods without applying for the consent of the Council until they are "found out" and in these instances no provision is made for the disposal of slop water and nuisances are caused.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

There were 13 premises registered as dairies (other than dairy farms). Although 34 producers are still retailing raw milk, except in 14 cases the quantity sold is very small. The bulk of the milk sold in the district is pasteurised or sterilised. The conditions under which milk is retailed is on the whole satisfactory.

All raw milk is sampled for cleanliness and for biological examination. Milk from one herd was found to be infected with tuberculosis and the milk from this source was pasteurised until the infected cow had been removed. The investigation of *Brucella Abortus* showed 4 herds to be infected out of 45 bulk samples. In these cases it was necessary to take 268 samples from individual cows in order to isolate the infected cows.

In the case of one infected herd comprising 170 cows, 154 samples were taken and 11 cows were found to be infected and removed from the herd. Owing to the difficulty in deciding when the herd was free from infection, arrangements were made for all the milk to be pasteurised.

### MILK SAMPLES

Class of Milk				Samples taken for bacteriological examination (Methylene Blue, Cleanliness Test)	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	8	5	3
Accredited	...	...	...	5	3	2
Undesignated	...	...	...	31	25	6
Pasteurised	...	...	...	8	8-	-
Sterilised	...	...	...	2	2-	-

-Satisfactorily processed.

# MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS REGULATIONS, 1949

## Particulars of Licences issued.

				Pasteurised	Sterilised	T.T.
Dealer's Licences	...	...	...	9	8	9
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	3	2	2

## ICE CREAM

Only small quantities of ice cream are manufactured in this district and the process is by the cold-mix method. There are three premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream and 93 premises for the sale of ice cream.

Generally the quality of the ice cream and its method of sale have been satisfactory.

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Grade 1 (Highest Grade)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Iced Lollipops:—								
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

## MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

There are no regional Slaughterhouses in the district but 21 private slaughterhouses were licensed and used for the killing of "cottagers" pigs.

The following articles of food were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 st. 6 lb.
Jellied Veal (tinned)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 st. 7 lb.
Meat (tinned)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 st. 8 lb.
Peas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 tins
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19 tins
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21 st. 4 lb.
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 jars and 217 tins
Jams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 tins
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174 tins
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17 tins
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95 tins
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 packet
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 packets
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 lb.
Loose Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43 lb.
Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104 lb.
Baked Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 tins
Apples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 tins
Pigs Head	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Items	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

The condemned food is disposed of by burial, usually on the refuse tips.

## FOOD PREMISES

The inspection of food premises continued, particular attention still being paid to such elementary but important matters as satisfactory washing facilities, sanitary accommodation and cleanliness. There is a slow but steady improvement in the condition of food shops.

In ten cases a supply of hot and cold water over a sink was provided and in two cases adequate sanitary arrangements were installed.

The types of food premises are divided as follows:—

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Confectioners (cakes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Confectioners (sweets)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Fish and Chips (and wet fish)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Many shops sell a variety of goods but the above list covers the “principal trade”.

The following premises are registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Preserved Food and Sausage Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	25
Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	93
Number of inspections of registered food premises	...	...	...	...	...	102

## RODENT CONTROL

A full-time rodent operator is employed on the work of rodent destruction. There were no large infestations but in the late autumn the number of minor infestations increased and these were dealt with satisfactorily.

A free service is given to private householders and a moderate charge made for the treatment of shops and factories.

Constant attention is given to the Council's refuse tips and sewage works and all the sewers in the district were also treated during the year.

Summary of premises visited:—

Number of private houses visited	...	...	...	...	...	778
Number of private houses infested	...	...	...	...	...	472
Number of houses treated	...	...	...	...	...	472
Number of business premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	24
Number of business premises infested	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of business premises treated	...	...	...	...	...	17

## REGULATED PREMISES

(1) Number of Pet Shops Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of premises registered for upholstering etc. (Rag Flock Act)							1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(3) Number of Knackers Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	44

There are no Canal Boats registered in the district.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Number of factories on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Number of written notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of occupiers prosecuted	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of defects found...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

## OUTWORKERS

Number employed in the making of wearing apparel...	...	...	...	...	...	216
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

I have the honour to remain your obedient servant,

J. W. HALL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*





